

CLAIMS

1. A method of forming a hose into a desired shape comprising the steps of:
pulling said hose into a forming tube having an inner surface defining a
5 desired tube shape;
curing said hose into said desired shape; and
removing said hose having said desired shape from said forming tube.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of cutting said
10 hose to a desired length.
3. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of holding said
forming tube stationary.
- 15 4. The method as recited in claim 3 wherein a clamping block holds said
forming tube stationary.
5. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of lubricating
said hose.
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6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said hose includes a first end and a
second end and said forming tube includes a loading end and a vacuum end, and the
step of pulling includes inserting said first end of said hose into said loading end of
said forming tube.
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7. The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising the steps of positioning
a vacuum endcap on said vacuum end of said forming tube and positioning a loading
endcap on said loading end of said forming tube.
- 30 8. The method as recited in claim 7 wherein the step of pulling said hose into
said tube includes applying a vacuum to said vacuum end of said tube.

9. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein said first end of said hose is flush with said vacuum endcap and said second end of said hose is flush with said loading endcap.
- 5 10. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the step of removing said hose includes applying a pressure to said vacuum end of said forming tube.
11. The method as recited in claim 6 further including the step of forming said first end and said second end.
- 10 12. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said hose includes a first end and a second end, and the method further includes the step of flaring at least one of said first end and said second end of said hose.
- 15 13. The method as recited in claim 12 wherein at least one of said first end and said second end of said hose is flared by inserting a mandrel into said at least one of said first end and said second end of said hose, and said mandrel has an outer diameter greater than an inner diameter of said hose.
- 20 14. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said hose is a polymer.
15. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said forming tube is one of plastic, glass, Pyrex, ceramic, and metal.
- 25 16. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said hose is cured by submerging said hose and said forming tube in a hot fluid.
17. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said hose is cured by an electric wrap.
- 30 18. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said hose is cured by microwaving.

19. A method of forming a hose into a desired shape comprising the steps of:
cutting said hose to a desired length;
lubricating said hose;
pulling said hose into a forming tube having an inner surface defining a
5 desired tube shape;
curing said hose into said desired shape; and
removing said hose having said desired shape from said forming tube.
20. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein said hose includes a first end and
10 a second end and said forming tube includes a loading end and a vacuum end, and
the step of pulling includes inserting said first end of said hose into said loading end
of said forming tube.
21. The method as recited in claim 20 further comprising the steps of positioning
15 a vacuum endcap on said vacuum end of said forming tube and positioning a loading
endcap on said loading end of said forming tube.
22. The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the step of pulling said hose into
said tube includes applying a vacuum to said vacuum end of said tube.
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23. The method as recited in claim 20 wherein said first end of said hose is flush
with said vacuum endcap and said second end of said hose is flush with said loading
endcap.
24. The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the step of removing said hose
25 includes applying a pressure to said vacuum end of said forming tube.
25. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein said hose includes a first end and
a second end, and the method further includes the step of flaring at least one of said
30 first end and said second end of said hose.

26. A method of forming a hose into a desired shape comprising the steps of:
providing a hose including a first end and a second end;
providing a forming tube including a loading end and a vacuum end;
cutting said hose to a desired length;
5 lubricating said hose;
positioning a vacuum endcap on said vacuum end of said forming tube;
pulling said hose into said forming tube having an inner surface defining a
desired tube shape;
positioning a loading endcap on said loading end of said forming tube;
10 curing said hose into said desired shape; and
removing said hose having said desired shape from said forming tube.
27. The method as recited in claim 26 wherein the step of pulling includes
inserting said first end of said hose into said loading end of said forming tube.
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28. The method as recited in claim 26 wherein the step of pulling said hose into
said tube further includes applying a vacuum to said vacuum end of said tube.
29. The method as recited in claim 26 wherein said first end of said hose is flush
20 with said vacuum endcap and said second end of said hose is flush with said loading
endcap.
30. The method as recited in claim 26 wherein the step of removing said hose
includes applying a pressure to said vacuum end of said forming tube.
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31. The method as recited in claim 26 further including the step of flaring at least
one of said first end and said second end of said hose.